

## INITIATIVE 655

I, Ralph Munro, Secretary of State of the State of Washington and custodian of its seal, hereby certify that, according to the records on file in my office, the attached copy of Initiative Measure No. 655 to the People is a true and correct copy as it was received by this office.

1       AN ACT Relating to methods of taking wildlife; adding a new section  
2       to chapter 77.16 RCW; and prescribing penalties.

3       BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4       NEW SECTION.   **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 77.16 RCW  
5       to read as follows:

6       (1) Notwithstanding the provisions of RCW 77.12.240 and 77.12.265  
7       or other provisions of law, it is unlawful to take, hunt, or attract  
8       black bear with the aid of bait.

9       (a) Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to prohibit the  
10      killing of black bear with the aid of bait by employees or agents of  
11      county, state, or federal agencies while acting in their official  
12      capacities for the purpose of protecting livestock, domestic animals,  
13      private property, or the public safety.

14      (b) Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to prevent the  
15      establishment and operation of feeding stations for black bear in order  
16      to prevent damage to commercial timber land.

17      (c) Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to prohibit the  
18      director from issuing a permit or memorandum of understanding to a

1 public agency, university, or scientific or educational institution for  
2 the use of bait to attract black bear for scientific purposes.

3 (d) As used in this subsection, "bait" means a substance placed,  
4 exposed, deposited, distributed, scattered, or otherwise used for the  
5 purpose of attracting black bears to an area where one or more persons  
6 hunt or intend to hunt them.

7 (2) Notwithstanding RCW 77.12.240 or any other provisions of law,  
8 it is unlawful to hunt or pursue black bear, cougar, bobcat, or lynx  
9 with the aid of a dog or dogs.

10 (a) Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to prohibit the  
11 killing of black bear, cougar, bobcat, or lynx with the aid of a dog or  
12 dogs by employees or agents of county, state, or federal agencies while  
13 acting in their official capacities for the purpose of protecting  
14 livestock, domestic animals, private property, or the public safety.  
15 A dog or dogs may be used by the owner or tenant of real property  
16 consistent with a permit issued and conditioned by the director under  
17 RCW 77.12.265.

18 (b) Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to prohibit the  
19 director from issuing a permit or memorandum of understanding to a  
20 public agency, university, or scientific or educational institution for  
21 the use of a dog or dogs for the pursuit of black bear, cougar, bobcat,  
22 or lynx for scientific purposes.

23 (3) A person who violates subsection (1) or (2) of this section is  
24 guilty of a gross misdemeanor. In addition to appropriate criminal  
25 penalties, the director shall revoke the hunting license of a person  
26 who violates subsection (1) or (2) of this section and a hunting  
27 license shall not be issued for a period of five years following the  
28 revocation. Following a subsequent violation of subsection (1) or (2)  
29 of this section by the same person, a hunting license shall not be  
30 issued to the person at any time.

31 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** If any provision of this act or its  
32 application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the  
33 remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other  
34 persons or circumstances is not affected.

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